

## Message Text

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1030  
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIAT 2608  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES ASALLAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMCONSUL DURBAN POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 2211

USICA

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

USICA FOR IOP/M, IAA, IBS

DEPT. FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: VANCE/OWEN PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 16- PRETORIA, RSA ASST.  
SEC. OF STATE HODDING CARTER INTRODUCED SEC. OF STATE VANCE AND  
FOR. SEC. OWEN, SAYING STATEMENTS WOULD BE MADE BUT MR. VANCE  
AND DR. OWEN WOULD NOT STAY LONG. BEGIN TEXT:  
MR. VANCE: THE TWO SUBJECTS WHICH WE DISCUSSED THIS EVENING WITH  
THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. I WOULD LIKE TO  
SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE FIRST AND THEN DR. OWEN WILL SPEAK TO THE  
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SECOND. WE HAD A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. WE  
POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ADDRESSED TO THE RESOLUTION  
OF THIS PROBLEM AND TO THE FINDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION  
OF THE PROBLEM. WE ALSO STRESSED THE FACT THAT WE BELIEVE THAT  
WE MUST NOT ONLY INITIATE THE ACTION BUT FOLLOW THROUGH AND MAKE  
SURE THAT IT HAS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. WE ARE IN IT TO STAY  
TO SEE THAT IT WORKS OUT SATISFACTORILY. MR. BOTHA RAISED A

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. WE TOOK NOTE OF THOSE MATTER. WE ARE BUT TWO OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE FIVE AND WE MUST, OF COURSE, DISCUSS THOSE WITH OUR COLLEAGUES AND WE PLAN TO DO SO. DAVID, DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING?

DR. OWEN: ON RHODESIA. WELL, I THINK THAT WHEN I WAS FIRST IN SOUTH AFRICA LAST APRIL, AT THAT TIME WE DISCUSSED BOTH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND I DON'T THINK THAT SINCE THAT TIME IN APRIL I HAVE BEEN UNDER ANY DOUBT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DOES WANT AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, IF IT'S POSSIBLE, FOR BOTH NAMIBIA AND FOR RHODESIA. I BELIEVE THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND I THINK IT'S IN THE INTERESTS OF EVERYBODY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE PROBLEM WE FACE NOW OVER RHODESIA IS THAT WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS BUT THAT WE HAVE STILL GOT A SITUATION IN WHICH THERE IS ARMED CONFLICT. WE HAVE GOT A SITUATION IN WHICH TWO OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERS ARE NOT INVOLVED OUTSIDE, AND THE ARMED CONFLICT IS CONTINUING AND WE FELT THAT IT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR US TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WE DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES BUT ALL WE ASK EVERYONE-- AND I THINK THIS PARTICULARLY APPLIES TO SOUTH AFRICANS, BECAUSE IT IS IN YOUR INTERESTS TO HAVE, ( I THINK, - STABLE COUNTRY ON YOUR BORDERS) BUT WE SHOULD TRY TO CONTINUE THE PATH OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THESE ARE THE ISSUES WE DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA. ALL WE CAN ASK IS THAT PEOPLE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION AND WORK TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT THAT CAN BE INTERNATIONALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTABLE IN A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION AND A TRANSFER TO INDEPENDENCE IN 1978. NOW, I KNOW THAT SOME PEOPLE SAY, WELL WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING ON TALKING. THE POINT OF GOING ON TALKING IS THAT IF WE ALLOW THE ARMED CONFLICT TO JUST CONTINUE, I THINK WE COULD GET INTO A VERY BITTER STRUGGLE. IF WE CEASE TO PURSUE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, I THINK THAT THE PEOPLE WILL GIVE UP TALKING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, THEY WOULD THEN JUST FIGHT IT OUT AND WITH THAT THERE IS A VERY SEVERE RISK OF INTERNATIONALIZING THE SITUATION. OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO COME IN IN SUPPORT AND WE COULD FIND THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD BE A CENTER OF CONFLICT, AS WE'VE SEEN IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA IN RECENT MONTHS, SO WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT DESPITE THE OBSTACLES, IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO BRING ALL THE SIDES TOGETHER AND BRING THEM AROUND A NEGOTIATING TABLE AND GET THEM TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFICULTIES AND HAVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. SO WE WILL WORK OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS FOR A CONFERENCE OF ALL THE PARTIES TO TRY AND RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AND WE PUT THESE ISSUES TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA AND HE WILL DECIDE HIS RESPONSE. I GATHER HE IS TALKING TO YOU LATER. I DON'T INTEND TO ANTICIPATE HIS BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEM AND I HOPE

THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.

QUESTION: WHAT WAS MR. BOTHA'S INITIAL REACTION TO YOUR REQUEST THAT HE SUPPORT OR ENDORSE THE CALL FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE IN RHODESIA?

DR. OWEN: WE'RE NOT ASKING TO COME OUT AND ENDORSE ALL THIS BUT I THINK THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE PAST SEEN THE MERIT IN TRYING TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER, AND I HOPE HE'LL SEE THE MERIT IN DOING THIS AT THIS PRESENT MOMENT IN TIME. IT'S UP TO HIM HOW HE EXPRESSES IT, HOW HE USES HIS INFLUENCE, AND HOW HE

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EXPRESSES IT TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: ARE YOU SAYING NOW THAT YOU ARE HOPING THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE IT HAS IN SALISBURY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE INTERNAL PEOPLE THERE ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TALKING?

DR. OWEN: I THINK THAT'S A QUESTION UP TO THEM. IT'S NOT FOR ME TO TELL THEM HOW TO CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS. THEY ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION AND THEY MUST DECIDE IT. THEY'VE OFTEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF RHODESIA. THAT'S UP TO THEM

HOW THEY USE THEIR INFLUENCE OR WHAT THEY DECIDE TO DO, BUT I DO BELIEVE IT'S IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERESTS.

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMCONSUL DURBAN POUCH

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QUESTION: DR. OWEN, TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND BETTER... THEN IS IT  
CORRENT YOU DIDN'T SUGGEST A PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION TO SOUTH AFRICA

TODAY? JUST GENERALLY, YOU RE-STATED REALLY WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID:  
THAT YOU WANT THEM TO SUE THEIR INFLUENCE, OR IS THERE SOME NEW TWIST

TO IT THAT ESCAPES US?

DR. OWEN: THERE'S NO NEW TWIST. WE DISCUSSED THESE PROBLEMS  
FRANKLY AND IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL AS WE'VE BEEN DOING OVER QUITE  
SOME TIME. I MEAN, WE CAME BACK, WE DISCUSSED THIS IN SEPTEMBER.  
WE'VE HAD FURTHER CONTACT ALL THROUGH THE LAST FEW MONTHS WHEN  
WE'VE BEEN DISAGREEING ON SOME OTHER THINGS. WE STILL CONTINUED TO  
WORK IN A WAY KEEPING EACH OTHER CLOSELY IN TOUCH.

QUESTION: HAVE THEY NOT USED THEIR INFLUENCE, OR HAVE THEY NOT  
USED IT ENOUGH, OR ARE YOU SUGGESTING SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION  
THAT YOU CAN'T DISCUSS WITH US?

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DR. OWEN: I HAVE LONG TAKEN THE VIEW THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS DON'T  
USUALLY LIKE YOU TO TELL THEM HOW TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN FOREIGN POLICY

QUESTION: COULD I RAISE SOME OF THOSE SAME QUESTIONS WITH  
SECRETARY VANCE, PLEASE? ( LAUGHTER)

MR. VANCE, I WOULD ENDORSE WHAT DR. OWEN HAS SAID.

QUESTION: WHAT IS IT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD PARTICULARLY  
LIKE TO SEE WOUTH AFRICADO, MR. SECRETARY?

MR. VANCE, WELL, WE WOULD HOPE, ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER,  
THAT WE FIND A SOLUTION TO BOTH THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM AND  
THE RHODESIAN. ASDR. OWEN POINTED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
RHODESIAN PROBLEM, WE FEEL THAT A SOLUTION, AN INTERNATIONALLY  
APPROVED AND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM WOULD

CLEARLY BE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD I FOLLOW THAT UP PLEASE BY ASKING IF THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA REPRESENTED ANY FUNDAMENTAL NEW ISSUES RAISED IN THE NAMIBIAN DISCUSSIONS?

MR. VANCE: THEY RAISED ISSUES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES AS SEEN BY SOUTH AFRICA AND THEY RELATE TO MATTERS WHICH ARE COVERED IN THE PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE.

QUESTION: WOULD THEY CONCEIVABLY REQUIRED SOME RENEGOTIATION OF THE PROPOSALS?

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MR. VANCE: I THINK THAT ALL I SHOULD TO INTO AT THIS POINT, BECAUSE AS I SAID, WE MUST MERELY TAKE THEM, TAKE NOTE OF THEM NOW AND TAKE THEM BACK TO OUR COLLEAGUES, THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WOULD IT BE FAIR TO PARA- PHRASE YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANSWER ON NAMIBIA THAT THEIR ANSWER IS INCONCLUSIVE?

MR. VANCE: WELL, I THINK THAT THEY OUGHT TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON THAT. I KNOW THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA IS GOING TO BE HERE IN A LITTLE WHILE TO SPEAK TO YOU AND I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT I OUGHT TO SPEAK FOR HIM.

QUESTION: BUT YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO GO AWAY WITH ANY FIRM INDICATION WHETHER THEY HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS?

MR. VANCE: IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS OF THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ON NAMIBIA, YOU HAVE SEEN BOTH MR. BOTHA AND MR. NUJOMA IN THE SAME TWELVE HOURS. IS IT YOUR SENSE THAT THEY ARE NOW COMING CLOSER TOGETHER ON THE BASIS OF THE REVISED WESTERN PROPOSALS?

MR. VANCE: I THINK REALLY AGAIN THAT THEY HAVE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON THIS THING AS TO HOW THEY STAND WITH RESPECT TO OUR PROPOSALS. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO SPEAK FOR THEM AND I'M SURE AS FAR AS MR. BOTHA IS CONCERNED THAT HE WILL SPEAK TO THIS ISSUE AS FAR AS NAMIBIA IS CONCERNED, AND I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF MR. NUJOMA DIDN'T EXPRESS HIS VIEWS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS REJECTS THE PROPOSALS, DOESN'T APPROVE THEM? WHAT WILL HAPPEN THEN?  
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MR. VANCE: THAT'S AN ASSERTION THAT I CERTAINLY AM NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE FUTURE BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND I HOPE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL ENDORSE THEM.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, I SENSE THAT NEITHER YOU NOR DR. OWEN WANT TO ADDRESS YOURSELVES TO THE QUESTION OF THE DEGREE OF PRESSURE THAT YOU ASKED SOUTH AFRICA TO PUT ON RHODESIA. THEREFORE, I'D LIKE TO PUT THE QUESTION TO YOU THIS WAY. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH MR. BOTHA'S RESPONSE?

MR. VANCE: I FEEL THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS, THEY WERE CANDID DISCUSSIONS AND I THINK IT WAS USEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE DISCUSSIONS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, YOU WILL BE SEEING MR. SMITH TOMORROW. WILL WHAT YOU WERE TOLD YESTERDAY BY MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE MAKE YOUR DATE WITH MR. SMITH ANY MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN?

MR. VANCE: NO, I DON'T THINK SO. THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF ALL THE PARTIES. AS DR. OWEN HAS SAID, WE FEEL THAT IF PROGRESS IS GOING TO BE MADE ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCES WHICH REMAIN. AS WE HAVE INDICATED ON MANY OCCASIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR A SOLUTION WHICH SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY TO THE PARTIES BUT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, MR. NKOMO WAS QUOTED OUT OF LUSAKA TODAY AS SAYING THAT AT THE MEETING THAT YOU'VE JUST CONCLUDED IN DAR, THE  
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PATRIOTIC FRONT MADE CONCESSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF UN FORCES AND RESIDENT COMMISSIONER POWERS, BUT THAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES FAILED TO MEET THEM HALF WAY, FAILED TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS ON THEIR SIDE. THEREFORE, EVERYTHING WAS BEING GIVEN BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND NOTHING GIVEN BY YOU. IS IT YOUR CONCEPT OR IS IT DR. OWEN'S CONCEPT THAT YOU WERE THERE IN ORDER TO

COMPROMISE OR TO CHANGE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN THAT THEREFORE  
THIS SORT OF QUESTION ARISES?

MR: VANCE: THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WERE PUT FORWARD. THEY WERE  
AMPLIFIED AND MODIFIED AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED ON IN  
MALTA. WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS  
WITH THE PARTIES, BECAUSE THEY MUST ULTIMATELY MAKE THE DECISION,  
ANY ASPECTS WHICH THEY FEEL SHOULD BE RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH IT.

QUESTION: OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS SOME OF THE NEWLY SWORN BLACK  
MINISTERS IN SALISBURY HAVE RE-STATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEE MR.  
NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE TAKE PLACES ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. IN LIGHT OF WHAT YOU  
HEARD IN DAR FROM THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS, WHAT IS YOUR  
EVALUATION OF THE OBSTACLES OR LIKELIHOOD OF THAT KIND OF A  
COMPROMISE SOLUTION?

MR: VANCE: I THINK THE FIRST STEP IS TO GET EVERYBODY TO SIT  
DOWN TOGETHER SO THAT THEY CAN DISCUSS THEIR VARYING VIEWS WITH  
RESPECT TO THESE PROBLEMS AND I THINK THEY'VE GOT TO SPEAK FOR  
THEMSELVES RATHER THAN ME SPEAKING FOR THEM. ENDS TEXT.  
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